

Claim Listing

Please enter the following claims, which replace all prior claims in this matter.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for programmably generating an illumination pattern superimposed onto a substrate, said substrate displaying lowered impedance in regions on its surface where it is illuminated, said illumination pattern having a predetermined arrangement of light and dark zones, said apparatus comprising:
an illumination source capable of selectively illuminating a surface of the substrate, whereby upon application of an AC voltage to the substrate, the electric field in the illuminated regions of the surface is greater than in the non-illuminated regions of the surface;
a reconfigurable mask composed of an array of pixels, said pixels being actively controllable and directly addressable by means of a computer-controlled circuit and computer interface, said computer-controlled circuit ~~being operated using a software program~~ providing temporal control of the intensity of illumination emanating from each ~~said pixels~~ so as to form the illumination pattern ~~comprising the predetermined arrangement of light and dark zones~~;
a projection system suitable for imaging the reconfigurable mask onto the substrate; and
an imaging and recording system ~~incorporating a camera~~ capable of viewing and recording said substrate with superimposed illumination pattern.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an image analysis system permitting acquisition of digitized images of the illumination pattern, analysis of said digitized images so as to extract features ~~vectors~~ of interest, and thereby to permit creation of derivative patterns based on said features ~~vectors~~ of interest.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said computer-controlled circuit and computer interface are capable of accepting input from a video display adapter.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said array of pixels is

actively controlled so as to permit adjustment of variable and controllable levels of pixel transmissivity or reflectivity.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said array of pixels comprises a liquid crystal display or a digital micromirror device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said software program provides a series of illumination patterns, said patterns being produced interactively in a graphical user interface software program or being replayed from a storage device containing previously produced patterns.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate ~~is~~ comprises a light-sensitive planar electrode, said light-sensitive electrode being aligned with another planar electrode in substantially parallel arrangement, with said electrodes being separated by a gap, and the gap containing an electrolyte solution which is in contact with said electrodes and which contains colloidal particles suspended at an interface between the light-sensitive electrode and the electrolyte solution, and wherein the illumination pattern is projected onto said light-sensitive electrode so as to control the assembly and lateral motion of said colloidal particles, said assembly and lateral motion being induced by a time-varying electric field applied between said electrodes.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for programmably reconfiguring an array of particles on a ~~substrate~~ light-sensitive planar electrode by programmable adjustment of an

illumination pattern projected onto a substrate the light-sensitive planar electrode comprising:

an illumination source;

a reconfigurable mask composed of an array of pixels, said pixels being actively controllable and directly addressable by means of a computer-controlled circuit and computer interface, said computer-controlled circuit being operated using a software program providing temporal control of the intensity of illumination emanating from each pixel so as to form the illumination pattern comprising the predetermined arrangement of light and dark zones;

a projection system suitable for imaging the reconfigurable mask onto the light-sensitive planar electrode a-substrate, wherein the ~~substrate comprises a~~ light-sensitive planar electrode, upon illumination, displays lowered impedance in the illuminated regions, said light-sensitive planar electrode being aligned with another planar electrode in substantially parallel arrangement, with said electrodes being separated by a gap, and the gap containing an electrolyte solution which is in contact with said electrodes and which contains colloidal particles suspended in the electrolyte solution; and
an imaging system incorporating a camera capable of viewing ~~and recording said substrate~~ light-sensitive planar electrode with superimposed illumination pattern.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A programmable patterning device for generating a chemically patterned surface or surface coating comprising:

an apparatus for programmably generating an illumination pattern having a predetermined arrangement of light and dark zones on said surface, the apparatus comprising:

an illumination source;

a reconfigurable mask composed of an array of pixels, said pixels being actively controllable and directly addressable by means of a computer-controlled circuit and computer interface, said computer-controlled circuit being operated using a software program providing temporal control of the intensity of illumination emanating from each pixel so as to form the illumination pattern comprising the predetermined arrangement of light and dark zones;

a projection system suitable for imaging the reconfigured mask onto the surface; and
an imaging system incorporating a camera capable of viewing said substrate with superimposed illumination pattern; and

upon illumination by light of pre-selected spectral composition of the light-sensitive surface or surface coating, a means for permanently altering a physical or chemical property of the surface or surface coating is altered of a light-sensitive surface or surface coating by exposure to light of pre-selected spectral composition in accordance with a the programmed illumination pattern.

29. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 28, wherein the physical or chemical property ~~comprises~~ is solubility in a pre-selected solvent, and whereby the chemically patterned surface or surface coating is generated following illumination and upon exposure of the surface to said solvent. so as to generate said chemically patterned surface or surface coating by exposure of the surface to said solvent.

30. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 28, wherein the physical or chemical ~~reactivity property comprises~~ is chemical reactivity ~~so as to generate~~ and wherein there is said chemically patterned surface or surface coating by subsequent functionalization,

following illumination, of the surface by chemical reaction.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the spectral composition contains the wavelength of the visible spectrum.